

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Volume 56 No. 21

October 16, 2024

Suggested Donation \$1

SHOT FOR \$2.90

RAGE AGAINST MTA POLICE TERROR



Hundreds protest racist, indiscriminate shooting by cops as transit system crumbles

BROOKLYN, SEPTEMBER 17—Hundreds of angry workers gathered outside a Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) subway station where the fascist New York Police Department KKKops carelessly shot up the platform nearly killing four people—including two bystanders—just days before in a majority Black neighborhood (to no sympathy from antiracists, one of those shot also included another KKKkop). One of the bystanders was shot in the head and is reported to have permanent brain damage (Pix 11, 9/18).

Progressive Labor Party comrades joined our class brothers and sisters in their standoff against the kkkops.

The reason for this racist assault? A Black worker—also shot—had entered the station without paying a \$2.90 fare. Racist capitalism works every day to show our lives, especially those of Black workers, are dispos-

able to the bosses! Building a communist world will ensure our security from these trigger happy death squads, all too eager to play Shoot 'Em Up for \$2.90.

Speaking out

In a show of force, the kkkops surrounded the station and sidewalks in advance of the protest. But we were not intimidated by the scare tactics. We held a rally outside the station before taking the streets!

A comrade's student who came to the protest with him gave global context to the shooting, and how "the tools of imperialism" are being used to incite "hateful rhetoric and genocidal violence" against other workers that we must stand against.

One comrade who spoke added that this shooting would likely never have happened in a neighborhood with more white workers and that no amount of po-

lice reform will fix this. We soon marched to a nearby precinct, where the pigs attacked with pepper spray and several arrests. Remaining workers maintained a presence outside, doing jail support and calling out the blue scumbags as they walked by.

Footage from racist shooting released

Recently released body cam video of the incident shows the KKKops chasing Black worker Derrell Mickles for not paying to enter the station. He makes several attempts to avoid the pigs, running towards one after they tased him, just before they opened fire.

Even if Mickles had a knife, that doesn't excuse this racist attack! The police chose to confront someone over a \$2.90 fare, then shoot recklessly when they

Continued on page 3

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

EDITORIAL *Lebanon invasion escalation towards world war ...p 2*

BALTIMORE *Kkkcapitalism kills, workers fight back...p 4*



LETTERS *Students in solidarity with Springfield ...p 6*

INTERNATIONALISM *Arab Jewish workers unite against genocide..p8*

OUR FIGHT

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs every-one to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.

Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poison-ous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email: desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail: Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Internet: Online: www.plp.org
Twitter: @PLPchallenge
Facebook: @ChallengeDesafio
Instagram: @ PLPchallenge



WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual. While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue \$1. One Year: \$20. Six months: \$15. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202
October 16, 2024 • Volume 56 No. 21

Editorial

Lebanon invasion, escalation towards world war

State terrorist Israel invades Lebanon. The capitalist rulers of Iran launch hundreds of missiles at Israel. The U.S., the biggest terrorist of them all, rushes war-ships and thousands of more troops to the Middle East. Days before the one-year mark of the Zionist genocide in Gaza, an all-out regional war looks more likely by the hour. Inter-imperialist conflict seems headed for a breaking point.

As the international crisis of capitalism spirals out of the top imperialist bosses’ control, their life-and-death competition is sparking a rise of fascism in the U.S. and Europe, where the bosses have lost ground to more open fascists in China and Russia. With Russia grinding down Ukraine and China laying claim to the South China Sea, capitalist politicians and media are sounding alarms of global conflagration. A South African online publication led with this headline: “Top 12 Safest Countries to Live Should World War III Break Out” (South African, 9/24).

But there is no safe place for the working class under capitalism. We can never be secure as long as the bosses are free to value their profits over workers’ lives. Only communist revolution can end the rulers’ reign of terror. Only a mass communist movement, led by the international Progressive Labor Party, can build a world free of genocide. The challenge is great and urgent. Join us!

Zionist onslaught in Lebanon

Not content with murdering more than 41,000 workers and children in Gaza with missiles and bombs, and likely tens of thousands more from starvation, disease, and the obliteration of hospitals (Lancet, 7/8), Israel’s monstrous rulers have turned their sights on Lebanon. Seeking to liquidate Hezbollah, the Islamist militia spawned by Israel’s occupation in the 1980s, Benjamin Netanyahu’s Zionist regime exploded household pagers and launched “one of the most intense air raids in contemporary warfare” (New York Times, 9/24). Then they assassinated Hezbollah’s longtime leader, Hassan Nasrallah, with an airstrike in Beirut that leveled six apartment buildings and killed or wounded nearly one hundred people (apnews.com, 9/28). As Netanyahu and his nazi coalition celebrated “days of greatness,” more than one thousand women, men, and children in Lebanon have been killed with Biden’s blessing and made-in-U.S. 2,000-pound bombs (cbsnews.com, 9/30). Hundreds of thousands have fled in panic from their homes. Under capitalism, the bosses’ capacity for horror is unlimited.

As Israel methodically broadens its bloodbath, the misleaders of Hezbollah and the rest of Iran’s “Axis of Resistance” are also sending workers to early graves. As a lapdog proxy funded by Iran, the regional imperialist allied with Russia and China, Hezbollah has for decades waged a fight against U.S.-sponsored Israel. It’s a pawn in the inter-imperialist game to control the region’s oil and gas. Hezbollah’s rotten nationalist ideas are so many bricks in the slaughterhouse the capitalists are building for our class.

Now, more than ever, we need to channel our grief and anger at capitalist destruction into building the only movement that can turn the guns around and take the bosses down: communism! Once we replace capitalist rule with a dictatorship of the working class, the only mass graves will be dug for the parasitic bosses who destroy everything they touch.

Unhappy marriage: the U.S. and Israel

Israel’s escalating carnage has put its loyal patron at a crossroads. For the U.S., Israel is a vital linchpin for projecting military power in the Middle East. But it’s also an apartheid pariah state, and the Zionists’ gutter racism and talent for mass murder has reinforced the global perception of U.S. complicity. On September 26, with Genocide Joe Biden and his possible successor, Kamala Harris, cheerleading Israel’s right to “defend” itself, the Zionists welcomed another \$8.7 billion in U.S. aid “to support ongoing military efforts” (The Hill, 9/26).

Even before Iran’s strike upped the ante, Biden’s appeals to pause hostilities fell on deaf ears. The airstrike that killed Nasrallah caught the U.S. by surprise as it worked to ink a 21-day ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah (NBC, 9/28). Defiant terrorist Netanyahu has made it clear he’ll stop at nothing to stay in power and avoid prison on corruption charges. He needs to placate the most racist hyper-nationalists and religious extremists in his governing coalition, making a ceasefire a non-starter (New York Times, 6/3). Sad to say, Israel’s latest siege of carpet bombing and baby-killing has only made Netanyahu and his annexationist Likud party more popular (Times of Israel, 9/29). In both Israel and the U.S., too many workers have been infected by the poison of nationalism and the deadly false solution of a “Jewish state.”

With Israel gone rogue, China is exploiting U.S. disarray by pivoting to the Middle East and signing deals to provide missile technology to Iran (mirror.co.uk, 10/1). Both China and Russia are using the BRIC infrastructure investment program to challenge the dominance of the U.S. dollar (nasdaq.com, 7/8). Even if Kamala Harris and the Democrats were willing to pay the political price, they can’t afford to press Netanyahu too hard, much less tear up their blank check for mass destruction. Any U.S. move to rein in the Jewish-supremacist regime would open the regional door to their imperialist rivals.

U.S moves toward fascism

U.S. rulers also must contend with rising resistance within the bosses’ own borders. More than a hundred cities, including Atlanta, Detroit, and St. Louis, have pushed for local resolutions to demand a ceasefire (NPR, 4/18). College students across the nation have turned the seats of imperialist ideology into sites of anti-imperialist protest. Unions too have joined the call, adding their weight to the growing forces of opposition (Guardian, 7/23).

To stave off widespread fightback, the U.S. ruling class has no choice but to jettison the old rules of liberal democracy and turn toward fascism. One ominous development is the growing push to equate anti-Zionism with anti-Jewish racism. At Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania, a tenured Jewish professor was fired for accusing the Zionists of genocide (insidehighered.com, 10/2). At Cornell University, a student faces deportation for joining campus protests (Newsweek, 9/28). As the U.S. rulers strain to defend their position in their never-ending battle for world supremacy, it exposes the illusion of “free” speech under capitalism.

At the same time, the bosses are using voting to pacify workers’ righteous anger and enlist support for their imperialist death machine. With the U.S. presidential election around the corner, both Democrats and Republicans are working overtime to convince workers that capitalism works in their best interests—and that genocide is an acceptable price to pay to fend off “our” enemies. But the fact remains: Top cop Harris and nazi Donald Trump serve one set of imperialist masters or another. Choosing either one means more death for the working class. Choosing either Israel or Hezbollah or Hamas is the same losing proposition.

Turn anti-imperialist actions into communist revolution

Communism will erase all borders and stop the lethal competition for maximum profit. Communist revolution will end nationalism, racism, sexism, and imperialist war. Campus protests and anti-genocide resolutions are important, but they cannot smash a system that relies on money soaked in the blood of the working class. The bosses will never let us vote them out of business. PLP calls on all students, workers, and soldiers to turn reform struggles into the fight for communism. Every new comrade brings the world closer to real peace. Every new comrade hammers another nail into the coffin of capitalism. Join us! We have a world to win!

Justice for 18-year-old Donnell

KKKapitalism kills, workers fight back



Capitalist “democracy” means no charges against racist Baltimore kkkops who killed unarmed high schooler Donnell Rochester To abolish racist kkkops and build the just world that Donnell and too many other stolen lives— fight for communism!

BALTIMORE, MD, 9/6 — This evening a number of local workers angrily protested the racist police murder of Donnell Rochester. Three years ago, Donnell was unarmed, but Baltimore police nevertheless gunned him down in cold blood, shortly before he would have graduated high school. Comrades from the Progressive Labor Party have been active in this struggle, to fight for a system where Donnell would have still been alive—communism.

Prosecutors back killer cops

The reform demand is for Governor Wes Moore to move the case from the Baltimore City State’s Attorney to the statewide Attorney General’s office. This is because the City State’s Attorney, Ivan Bates, has refused to prosecute the killer cops that horrifically stole Donnell’s life.

Face off in the streets

Led boldly by Donnell’s mother, we faced off with police for about an hour. During that confrontation, one of the supervisory white-shirt cops was in contact with racist Police Chief Richard Worley. He was in charge of the Northeast District, when cops under his command killed Tyrone West. Apparently, Worley figured it wouldn’t be a good look for his cops to arrest us.

Liberal governor friendly to finance capital

However, we need to keep in mind that the U.S. system of so-called democracy is, in actuality, a dictatorship of the capitalist class. For example, Maryland’s first Black governor, liberal Wes Moore – just like all the governors before him – has a background of “friendships and board relationships with America’s super-wealthy corporate elite” (Baltimore Sun Commentary, 8/8).

For five years, Moore was an investment banker at Deutsche Bank in London and at Citigroup in New York. In 2017 his big corporate break arrived when he



became CEO of the “anti-poverty” Robin Hood Foundation. That organization, in essence, is a tax shelter for hedge funders. “It’s still run by financial masters of the universe” and “its board members” - such as David Solomon, CEO of Goldman Sachs (Sun Commentary).

Is Maryland Governor Wes Brown likely to change the jurisdiction of Donnell’s case to the Attorney General’s office? Probably not (even if he does, the courts will never bring the justice Donnell truly deserves).

Let’s keep in mind that murders in the U.S. - during 2023 - went down by more than 11 percent. However, in sharp contrast, police killed more workers in 2023 than during any other year in more than a decade [MappingPoliceViolence.us].

Can’t rely on capitalism for justice

Capitalism needs racism. The lower wages paid to Black and Latin workers account for about a fifth of total corporate profits. And racism, even more importantly, is used by the capitalist class to divide and weaken the working class. Police murders are part of this racism.

If Governor Moore were to turn over Donnell’s case to the Maryland Attorney General, it would be theatrics. We must keep in mind that Moore would simply be posturing, pretending that the capitalist state will end its violent and racist suppression of our class.

We must smash racism and the capitalist state, and build a new, fully egalitarian communist world of sisterhood and brotherhood. We must honor Donnell Rochester. Dare to struggle. Dare to win!

Organize against racist MTA police terror

Continued from page 1

couldn’t subdue him (Gothamist, 9/17).

That this happened in Brownsville, a neighborhood that has been ground zero for the bosses’ racist neglect for decades, is no coincidence. Thirty six percent of Brownsville residents live below the federal poverty level. Almost half the neighborhood’s working age residents are unemployed (NY Health Foundation). The KKKops felt right at home shooting away at people who live here who they see as worthless.

TWU Local 100, which represents the city’s train operators and conductors, also has blood on its hands from this attack. This sellout union has done nothing but push for more KKKops in the system to make it “safer.” In reality, they have given their support for racist police terror in the subway.

Fare brings more violence

The subway fare itself brings violence in New York City’s buses and subways. Violence against workers just trying to get somewhere-as this incident shows-and violence against transit workers who become targets from the transit bosses’ lies and incompetence.

Comrades working in transit have pushed the idea that removing the farebox is one way to make public transit less dangerous. A free bus program the MTA tried between September 2023-2024 showed a 39 percent decrease in bus operator assaults on the free lines during that period (The Nation, 9/6).

Whether every person pays the fare or not, the MTA still owes billions in bonds to profiteering Wall Street bosses. Any discussion about enforcing payment to ride public transit in the city inevitably enforces racist ideas (i.e, those who don’t pay are all criminals).

When the fascist Proud Boys interrupted a drag queen story hour event in Queens last year, the KK-Kops allowed them to access the subway system without paying, proving the kkkops only weaponize the fare to their personal benefit (NBC New York, 1/3/23).

Capitalism’s relentless demand for protecting profits and keeping workers in line is behind this racist shooting. Black and Latin workers must bear the brunt of a crumbling transit system whose bosses target them as responsible for its lack of safety. All the while, said bosses continue defunding and sending their attack dogs as solutions. We know the only solution to a better transit system and better world is through dictatorship of the proletariat—communism. Together we can run a communist moneyless antiracist, antisexist society without kkkops where we all can enjoy what our class produces freely such as free transit and free housing,

Mask bans parts of growing fascism

Nassau County in New York, the state of North Carolina, and the University of California campuses have been the first in the U.S. to pass laws outlawing the wearing of masks in public. Other jurisdictions have proposals for such laws, including one in the legislature in New Jersey (northjersey.com, 09/12). This new fascist offensive attacks both political marches and people who wear masks for medical reasons. Bringing both groups together in the fight against racism and capitalism is an opportunity to broaden the revolutionary communist movement. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has been engaged in the fight for safer working conditions, disability justice, and COVID-19 safety as well as the fight against the genocide in Gaza and the long-term struggle for communist revolution. Resisting mask bans is a newer fight.

The push for mask bans started as a way to intimidate anti-genocide protestors. It makes it easier to identify them with facial recognition and to target them for suspension, firing, and harassment for opposing U.S. imperialism.

The disability justice community has called for masking in medical facilities and other public places as a public health issue and is also under attack. At the Nassau hearing, Zionists berated disability organizers who called out mask bans as an attack on immuno-

compromised individuals. At the same time, many disability justice groups have also opposed the genocide of Palestinians.

Communists in the disability justice struggle

PLP members have joined with disability justice organizers who have waged campaigns for universal masking with N95 masks in health care settings and for stricter isolation procedures when workers and students have a COVID-19 infection. At the Long COVID Awareness protest in DC in March, 2024, a PLP member spoke about capitalism's drive for profit at the expense of workers' lives. We have worked with Mask Blocs in our cities and distributed free test kits to our schools and neighborhood groups.

As communists we believe in contributive justice, the idea that all workers should have the opportunity to contribute to society as much as possible. This means practicing good public health measures like air filtration, mask wearing, and testing to find out if your symptoms are from COVID-19 and if you have fully recovered with negative testing. Tests are not perfect but combined with other measures help decrease risks. This summer's surge has shown that the virus is not seasonal like the flu but is airborne year round and

constantly changing. Death and the development of Long COVID are reasons we need to protect ourselves.

Racism and eugenics

Disregarding the risks of COVID-19 to disabled workers is a form of eugenics in which some people are viewed as less valuable than others. Placing the current mask bans in this context reveals another fascist aspect of these policies. Discouraging mask wearing increases the risk to everyone but especially people who are immunocompromised. Further, letting the police stop people who wear masks to find out if the masks are for a health reason gives the police another racist excuse to harass Black and Latin workers --another version of "stop and frisk." Black and Latin workers have suffered more from COVID-19 than others (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10147367/>). Discouraging mask wearing for fear of police interaction will increase the risk of infections.

These steps toward fascism: increased surveillance, harsher intimidation, and racist eugenics mean that students and workers must unite the disability justice, antiracist, anti-genocide, and communist movements. Capitalism is the enemy of all these movements and building PLP is critical to destroy this system.

Reject U.S.-Marcos Regime U.S. imperialists are the terrorists



Conference and protest support heroic, revolutionary fighter against Philippine government fascism and U.S. imperialism.

WASHINGTON, DC, September 21 - "Who are the terrorists? U.S. Imperialists" was the cry as 100 students and workers marched to the Philippines Embassy at the end of a conference entitled "Reject the Fascism and Plunder of the U.S.-Marcos Regime." Over 150 people attended the conference, part of a tour calling for "Justice for Brandon Lee" and featuring an interview with this young man who was nearly killed by soldiers under President Rodrigo Duterte in 2019 and left a quadriplegic. Showing the heroic qualities of a revolutionary fighter, he continues to speak out against the fascism of the Philippine government and U.S. imperialism. He previously organized with the Ifugao Peasant worker Movement against large scale destructive mining, dams, and energy projects by imperialist corporations. These projects destroy the environment and displace indigenous people.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members joined the conference to share our communist ideas and learn more about the conditions of the Philippines. PLP members were received warmly while engaging in comradely discussion about the need to focus revolutionary activity on achieving communism rather than national liberation. Several participants in the conference asked to be contacted by PLP members based on receiving CHALLENGE and having robust discussions with us.

Philippines under martial law

The Philippines have been under martial law for 52 years. Intensifying this oppression, the government imposed a deliberately ambiguous anti-terrorism law in 2020 that "red tags" all opponents of the government. Speakers and performers shared their anger at this fascist regime, shouting militantly "Payt Latte" (Fight to the End) and singing songs of armed struggle.

The U.S. government's counterinsurgency in the Philippines has worked hand in glove with the local bosses and landlords to divide workers for decades. Two young workers from the Philippines spoke of the reality of martial law forcing communist organizers to work underground. The U.S. government has been consistent in backing dictators for 52 years of martial law in support of landlords and mining companies at the expense of workers and indigenous farmers. It has paid \$1 billion to the Philippines' rulers since 2015 to support fascist repression there while using its nine military bases to intimidate its imperialist rivals.

Mass movements against capitalism

The Cordillera Peoples Alliance includes Brandon Lee's Ifugao Peasant organization and has been under constant military oppression. Their bold struggles against the corporations do not call for communism but nevertheless they are "red tagged" and accused of being rebels in the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. This

party follows the mistaken strategy of first fighting for national liberation and at a later time for socialism and then finally for communism.

Many students from the University of Maryland came to the conference as members of the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines, known on campus as TERPCHRP. The campaigns in the Philippines have attracted groups of multiracial students across the country. This bodes well for the rise of an internationalist mass movement against capitalism. PLP is trying to provide more leadership to this mass movement so that it keeps its "eye on the ball" of fighting for communism directly.

Inter-imperialist rivalry in play

China like the U.S. has a strong interest in the Philippines and had been investing in projects especially under the previous President Rodrigo Duterte. Currently the new Marcos regime is allying itself more with the U.S. Not surprisingly, military incursions by China in the Philippines waters have increased, as China challenges the U.S. for control of the South China Sea and its bases and shipping lanes.

We in the PLP struggle for a communist revolution as the only solution for workers in the Philippines, the U.S., and the rest of the world's working class. Engaging with the students and members of human rights organizations we met at the conference is an opportunity not to be missed in advancing this goal!

War maker, strike breaker – Shut down Boeing!

About 32,000 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) struck Boeing on September 13. The strike began after 96 percent of the members voted to reject a tentative agreement that failed to make up for a decade of lost wages or restore members’ pensions, while Boeing sits on \$12.6 Billion cash-on-hand (The Nation) As we go to press, Boeing strikers have been joined by 45,000 dock workers, members of the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) who are on strike for the first time in 50 years.

Building communism through strike action

As the crisis of this system gives way to WWII and fascism grows we must double down on our efforts and struggle mightily to grow our presence in transit and industry to deepen our coworkers’ political understanding and getting our class siblings strike-ready while at the same time promoting transit-rider-dock-worker-plant worker solidarity, winning our class siblings to communist ideas. In Progressive Labor Party (PLP) we say strikes are schools for building communism. Strikes help our class realize the enormous power and potential to shut the system down and bring capital to its knees. From every dock, shipping lane, and manufacturing plant, to transit industrial workers

armed with communist ideas will help bring our class closer to smashing capitalism once and for all!

Billions for imperialist bosses, nada for workers

While Biden/Harris and Congress throw billions at the war industry and the imperialist supply chain for wars around the world to prop up their empire, workers are feeling restless and are in motion. In the past year, we have seen workers strike or threaten to strike on the railroads, at UPS, in auto, in the hotel industry, and a four-month strike of actors and screenwriters to name a few. Like the wildfires in California, the bosses, politicians, and union leaders are doing everything they can to make sure these fires don’t connect.

Boeing workers have been trapped in a sellout contract since 2013, when Boeing demanded \$8.7 billion in tax breaks from Washington State and major concessions from the workers, despite recording record profits at the time. If the politicians and union leaders didn’t meet their demands, Boeing threatened to move thousands of production jobs out of state. They got what they wanted. The Democratic Party controlled state legislature gave Boeing the largest tax break in U.S. history, and the IAM leadership pushed through a 10-year contract that froze pensions for cur-

rent workers and eliminated them for all new-hires while cutting pay. Boeing rewarded them by cutting over 12,000 jobs anyway.

Turn imperialist war into class war!

Boeing & Co. have not just been waging war around the world, they are waging war against workers in the U.S. as well. With more than 75,000 industrial workers on strike and wars dramatically escalating in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, now would be the perfect time for the U.S. labor leaders and AFL-CIO to call a general strike against wars abroad and war at home, linking the struggles from Seattle to Gaza and Beirut. But don’t hold your breath. The current union leadership is supporting the war makers, even as some pay lip service for a ceasefire.

We can do better. We urge all of our members and friends to walk the Boeing and ILA picket lines wherever possible. Try to get your co-workers and union members to join you. Organize discussions in school and on campus, linking the buildup to imperialist war to the sharpening class struggle. In other words, build communist consciousness and the Progressive Labor Party wherever we are. A fighting working class is opening the door.

John & Ellyn, dedicated fighters for our class



Ellyn and John Boelter, husband and wife, life-long communists, and dedicated antiracist fighters for the working class

John and Ellyn Boelter were well known and respected comrades in Chicago for their selfless support of workers in Chicago and their contributions to the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and InCAR (International Committee Against Racism) for decades. Ellyn passed away earlier this year. John passed in 2018.

Their generous contributions of their time and energy to InCAR and the Party will be remembered for many years to come. John came to Chicago by way of Wisconsin and Indiana and started teaching chemistry at Waller High School. As a teacher, he helped his students understand both scientific principles that describe the world and the political principles needed to change it. In 1968, as a member of the Chicago Teachers Union, he took part in the teachers’ strike of 1968. It was the beginning of John’s strong solidarity with workers’ movements and led to his joining the PLP in the early 1970s.

As a thank you from the Chicago Public Schools for his support of students, he was fired and blacklisted. This did not stop John from moving on and getting another job in the lab at Cook County Hospital and supporting his fellow workers there. He refused to cross the picket lines when the nurses went on strike in the mid-1970s. For his support, Cook County fired him, and unfortunately the nurse’s union did not support his reinstatement.

He built the PLP wherever he went. John soon returned to teaching at Bloom Trail High School in a mostly working-class suburb of Chicago. While there, John was able to involve many students, families and staff in Party activities. During this time, he was raising two young children: Aaron and Adrienne with his first wife, Terry.

In the mid-1970s John and Terry (first wife) divorced. In the late 1970s, John was introduced to Ellyn Hershman, an attorney and InCAR member who had just moved to the Chicago area from California. They married in 1977. He and Ellyn moved to the south side of Chicago soon thereafter and in short order gave active leadership in mass antiracist struggle in the community.

In 1986, PLP organized an attack on the nazi party, which had planned to march through Chicago’s Marquette Park. The neighborhood was well known for its racism and several antiracist marches had taken place there (including our May Day March in 1979). PLP had previously raided the offices of the nazis and beat the hell out of the fascists on multiple occasions.

This time, our plan was to stop the Nazis from getting to Marquette Park at all. We ambushed the truck at their set-up location with John leading the way. He later beat charges of attempted murder brought by the racists in the city government.

John later went on to teach at Daley College and then at Chicago State University to help build the presence of PLP there, recruiting more antiracist students and staff to the Party.

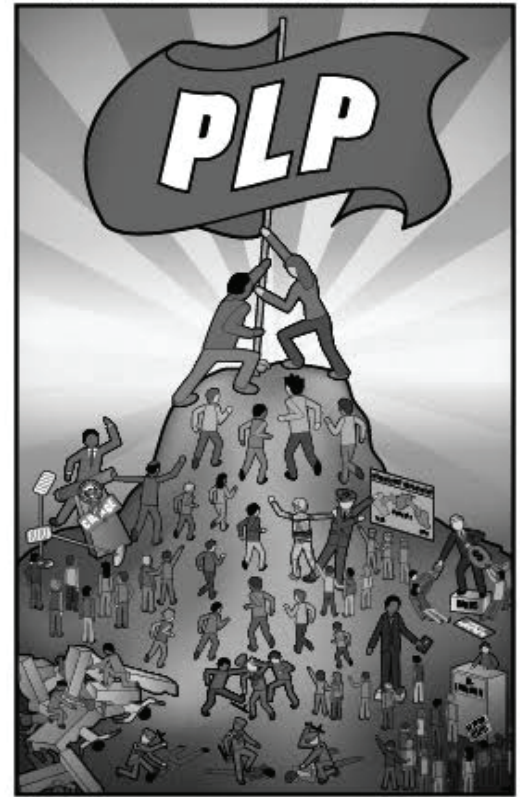
In the 1980s John and Ellyn became parents of two children, Suzy and Brenda. Ellyn helped the Party with fundraising and gave important legal advice. John steadfastly put forward the Party’s line and would always raise concerns in a comradely way. He and Ellyn were always generous with their time, use of their car and monetarily. John was part of the PLP contingent that went to support the protesters in Ferguson, Missouri in 2014 after the racist murder by police of Michael Brown.

The Boelter home was, for many years, often the center of Party or InCAR activities. There, it was known, you could replenish your supply of CHALLENGE newspapers and hear a kind word from John or Ellyn. John and Ellyn can be described as true communists through and through with their generosity and organizing of the PLP for many years. Their door was always open. They were loving grandparents to several grandchildren. While they are no longer physically here, their spirit lives on in the lives of the many people they touched in their many years in the struggle in and around the PLP.

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

**CAPITALISM
BREEDS SEXISM
RACISM
& IMPERIALISM!**



**FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST
WORLD
BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL
PLP!
PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY**

Now I know I'm a communist

At first when I saw your table I thought this was a student club just about Palestine, which I wanted to get involved with. But then as we spoke I discovered it was about more than Palestine, it was also about racism and capitalism. Before I moved to this country, I hadn't thought about these questions very much, but in the last year, this changed after the genocide in Gaza. And now I know I am a communist. I don't have fancy words for the ideologies and I don't feel comfortable yet making an argument - English is my fourth language and I still have so much to learn! But I want to learn more and what I know so far is that this party is fighting for the right things, which are equality and a better world. Capitalism is the cause of it and we need communism.

When I think about my home country, you would not believe the divide between rich and poor. The capital city is where the rich people live, and all the people from my district do all the labor. It's exactly like the book *The Hunger Games*. The people who work in the districts live completely different lives and never enjoy what the rich in the capital have.

There is more to life than being born, living and working like a dog just to afford life's necessities. I want to join and come to the next meetings. A very good friend of mine is also a student and is interested, and I will talk with him about coming too.

Students in solidarity with Springfield

"An injustice to one is an injustice to all" is our

school's motto. We developed this motto because of our history of facing inequity on our campus over the years. As a mainly Black and Latin school in a mainly white neighborhood, we have faced struggles against cops who force students to leave immediately after school, school safety agents who attack and arrest students, DOE policies that give whiter schools more resources and support. We have learned that unity - students, teachers and parents - is the only way forward.

When students learned about the racist attacks that students and workers currently face in Springfield, Ohio, they naturally wanted to show their solidarity. The two students, a part of Student Government, who crafted the solidarity letter to Haitian workers in Springfield both expressed their disgust with what was happening and also with world-wide racism. One student, who is from Haiti, talked about how angry she was that people were saying these things. Another student, when asked why she volunteered to craft the letter, expressed that these attacks happening to workers worldwide needed to be stopped.

The letter was spread to other teachers in the school who were asked to get their students to sign on. In one history class, dozens of students signed on when the statement of solidarity was read to them. "We the students of... stand in solidarity with the students and workers from Haiti in Springfield, Ohio who are under racist attack. In our school, we believe an injustice to one is an injustice to all, every person has a purpose and can contribute to improving our society, and that NO human beings are illegal. We condemn the racists who are putting you in harm's way and commit to doing our part in fighting racism and its impact around the world."

Many students were happy to know that the solidarity statement, along with their signatures, would be sent to workers from Haiti living in Springfield, Ohio. As one student said "Even taking a small stand against racism is an important thing to do! She grasped our motto in the Party which is that what we do counts! I urge PLers to start a petition showing their solidarity with workers in Springfield at their schools or jobs."

Bringing PL ideas to labor reform

A coalition of community groups, with the support of the TEAMSTERS union, held a press conference at the mayor's march. The goal was to talk about a bill called the "Safe Jobs Act." Its main content seeks to prevent any non-unionized worker from being thrown out of their job without justification.

At this conference, we introduced some members of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP). We work within one of the community organizations present. Through our newspaper, CHALLENGE, our slogans, and in the meetings and events where we participate, we constantly organize to build for a communist world, a world run by the working class.

After the conference, a group went into the offices to lobby the council members. Their goal was to gain majority support when the bill goes to a vote. For the time being, we must engage in this struggle for reforms within community organizations, churches, workplaces, etc. Our goal is to achieve the unity of the entire working class, led by a mass PLP, to make the revolution and build a communist society.

After crushing capitalism, imperialism, and its entire profit system forever, our class will no longer have to fight for crumbs, for it will have everything.

Proposal divides workers; need housing for all!

Recently, a friend of mine found a flyer posted on his front door. It was circulated by a "community member" calling for the community to come out and oppose plans for a future shelter in the neighborhood. According to this flyer, the neighborhood is already riddled with problems like gang shootings and crime; families are not able to walk the streets especially at night and their property will be devalued, etc.

This community meeting was to take place the following day. The proposal was that a vacant factory in the neighborhood would be used to house 120 men. I notified my friend that I could make the meeting and invited another friend. My friend wanted to attend to oppose the divisions that the bosses create among workers without homes and those with. The only plan I had was to distribute CHALLENGE newspapers and

Glossary

Capitalists compete by any means necessary. Much like smaller criminal gangs, different groups of capitalists battle one another to secure territory, resources, and exploitable labor—the basis of their profits. They have created the state as a mechanism to manage and protect this ruthless profit-driven system. Through laws, police, prisons, elections, the military, schools, the media, and other institutions, the bosses have built a dictatorship to keep themselves in power—and keep the working class out of power.

Fascism is a stage of late capitalism in crisis where the liberal democratic veil peels away to reveal a rotting dictatorship. The bosses use state terror to discipline their own class and enforce compliance by the working class—both essential conditions for waging global war. Fascism is marked by more direct and centralized rule, with intensified racism, sexism, and nationalism.

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalists, principally the multinational banks and oil companies (JPMorganChase, ExxonMobil). They're trying to build a multiracial, patriotic coalition to back U.S. imperialism and protect their far-flung profits. This is the wing that plays the drums of World War III.

The **Small Fascists** are mostly domestically oriented capitalists, spearheaded by the Koch, Mercer, DeVos, and Coors families, along with Richard Mellon Scaife, Harry and Lynde Bradley, John Olin, Peter Thiel, Elon Musk, Rupert Murdoch and a cast of other billionaires. They want to cut taxes for short-term profits and are reluctant to invest in costly ground wars to defend the global U.S. empire. Their agenda includes a racist gutting of social services at home and a retreat from U.S. imperialist alliances, including NATO.

maybe speak like I've done at previous community meetings. But I didn't have a back-up plan.

Workers and property owners started trickling in, by twos and threes until the seats were filled. The meeting began and the presenters gave information on the role they were each playing in this future endeavor. But they didn't finish.

People in the back seats started shouting, not giving the presenters the chance to finish. There didn't seem to be a leader of the opposition as several people were shouting down one of the main presenters at the same time. Then the alderman comes walking in, apologizing in English and Spanish for being late. The opposition community members didn't stop their shouting even for the alderman.

Long story short: The alderman asked the opposition to go outside to talk. They all went out and we stayed inside with the remaining community members. Some were either in favor or opposed to the new shelter. My friends and I spoke of the need for people to have, not only a roof over their heads and basic needs met, but also to be trained for jobs; that the city and nonprofits needed to be more transparent with the community; that affordable rents are not so "affordable" and any one of us could potentially be thrown out into the streets like the thousands already homeless. A young woman, who worked in a nursing facility across from Cook County jail, said that so much money was taken out of her paycheck in taxes already and assumed that more money would be taken out if a new shelter was built there. She was sincere, not hostile.

I didn't get her name or give her a CHALLENGE before leaving the building. That was a big mistake. As we left, we saw the group standing outside with the alderman. Neither of us stayed. Another big mistake! We might not have been able to distribute CHALLENGE to the outside group but I could have given one to the young woman inside.

It's been more than a year since I was directly involved in working with migrant refugees in a shelter close by me. I need to become involved again and build a base in the working class to better understand what it takes to strengthen myself as a revolutionary communist in Progressive Labor Party and not a reformist for capitalism like the alderman, the panelists and non-profits. In the long run, capitalism can't be reformed.

Arab-Jewish workers unite against genocide

Continued from page 8

and joining trade unions, especially in the railroad industry.

Communists joined and organized the early trade unions. In 1925, the Palestinian Communist Party (CP) applied to join the Comintern, the international organization of communist parties established by the Soviet Union. The CP urged unified strikes and included Arab workers as leaders.

Railway

The railway industry employed large numbers of Arab and Jewish workers. They experienced bad working and living conditions, abuse, and low wages at their hands. In 1920, the employees organized the first union in Palestine to demand an end to such practices. The Jewish-run Histadrut opposed joint membership. The union adopted a policy of Hebrew-only labor.

Arab workers appealed to Jewish railway association members:

Such separate organizations are dangerous...We must unite and present common demands to the government, which ignores its obligation to the worker, and instead sends in the police and puts him in jail (Comrades and Enemies, 1996, p 105).

Increasing conflict between Palestinian and Israeli elites developed during the mid-1930s. Yet, Jewish and Arab railway workers sustained their spirit of class consciousness that paved the way for future joint struggles.

Drivers and truckers strikes

Against initial opposition from the Histadrut and wealthy Palestinian families, Arab and Jewish drivers united and pressed for reforms, striking together for a week in 1931 that shut down transportation and forced the government to reduce taxes.

Quarry workers

The Nesher Quarry, near Haifa, employed Jewish and Arab workers from Egypt and Palestine. Conditions were bad for all but especially for the Arab workforce. Wages differed by 10-fold, working hours were longer for Egyptians, and all were forced to buy from

company stores and live in company hovels. In the 1920s, the workers struck. While nationalism ended up ruining this fightback, joint organizing occurred in other jobs. Arab and Jewish workers ran the salt plants, unionized bakeries, and organized in government and military offices, and the citrus and oil industries.

Palestinian Arab workers differentiated Jewish people from Zionism.

In 1944 during another railroad strike, a union leader reported that the slogan, “long live Arab-Jewish unity was enthusiastically received.” During the turbulent late 1940s, joint strikes erupted among 22,000 postal workers, telegraph workers, and government clerks. Even agricultural workers in the countryside formed joint co-operatives, and urban workers formed joint commercial boards.

This historical movement of worker-led solidarity seeking to cross nationalist and racist divides between workers in the region still exists. Here are some examples below:

Jewish, Israeli and Palestinian protests and solidarity

A few dozen weeks after Israel attacked Gaza, Jewish Israelis organized demonstrations calling for a cease fire and an end to the war on Gaza. They began with several dozen people at the military headquarters in Tel Aviv. As the war continued, more Israelis rallied against it, risking jail, beatings, shame, and isolation.

These are other examples of resistance organizations:

The Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions (ICAHD) organizes in Israel and other countries to defend and rebuild Palestinian property slated for destruction. It uses grass roots, direct action and international advocacy to safeguard Palestinian property.

Protecting olive orchards and farms

The olive industry on the West Bank is one of the most important. In 2015, it accounted for the livelihood of 100,000 Palestinian families and 25 percent of the area's gross agricultural income. The IDF and settlers

have destroyed the trees, and killed and injured the growers. The residents of Budrus with their Israeli partners successfully repelled Israeli troops with a 10-month campaign against a wall that would cut through the orchard inside the West Bank. They demonstrated daily with militant confrontations, holding signs saying Jews and Arabs Unite.

Physicians for Human Rights Israel documents attacks on health in Israeli prisons and war zones through collaborations with medical organizations in Israel and around the world. It recently released a statement calling for the end of Israeli bombings of hospitals and medical personnel.

Standing Together mobilizes Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel to work for peace, equality, and social and climate justice.

Women in Black, Israel originated in Israel in 1988 to oppose the occupation. Every Friday, women stand vigil on the street in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to hold discussions and teach about Israeli history and Palestinian liberation.

Combatants in Peace is a grassroots movement of Palestinians and Israelis, working together to end the occupation and bring sustainable peace, equality, and freedom.

The Refuseniks are young people who refuse to serve in the Israeli Defense Forces. When a reporter asked what army a refusenik would join, he answered, "I would gladly enlist in the Red Army to fight the Nazis." The film, Tantura, presents interviews with elderly veterans who conducted the 1948 expulsions and killings of over 700,000 Palestinians.

Rebuilding internationalist & multiracial solidarity

Communists in the region and all over the world must reject the bosses' nationalism and racism and lay our crosshairs firmly on the elites in both Israel Palestine, and all over the world rather than seeking to pit one group of workers against another. We must push anti-racist and internationalist messaging at every protest through chanting, literature and the personal connections we build with workers. Workers in Palestine and all over the world cannot afford for us to wait! Join the PLP and together we can smash the racist system once and for all!



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

U.S. bosses recognize need to scale back social welfare to pay for war

New York Times, 9/23–The first sentence of the report — released over the summer by a bipartisan, congressionally appointed commission — was blunt: “The threats the United States faces are the most serious and most challenging the nation has encountered since 1945 and include the potential for near-term major war.” The threats begin with China... Russia started the first major war in almost 80 years... Iran finances a network of extremist groups... these countries work together, too, sometimes with North Korea... If the U.S. doesn't do more to deter aggression, living standards in this country could suffer... the warning signs today were similar to those in the run-up to both Pearl Harbor and 9/11 ... The report recommended increasing military spending, partly by making changes to Medicare and Social Security... and partly by increasing taxes...

Further election gains for Nazis in Europe

Al Jazeera, 9/29–Austria's Freedom Party (FPO) is projected to finish first in the country's general election, ahead of the governing conservatives, underlining rising backing for hard-right parties in Europe... Kickl, a former interior minister who has led the FPO since 2021, seeks to become Austria's new chancellor on the back of the first far-right national election win in the country since World War II... many people in

Austria believe the FPO is controversial due to its Nazi origins. “Their founder was an SS officer and a Nazi minister,” she said, adding that some in Austria do not believe that the party has detached itself completely from its Nazi roots. “Herbert Kickl calls himself the ‘people's chancellor,’ which is a term Adolf Hitler used to describe himself,” An FPO victory would make Austria the latest European Union country to register surging far-right support after gains in countries including the Netherlands, France and Germany.

Plans for use of nuclear weapons in Europe inch forward

France24, 9/29– The Kremlin said on Sunday that amendments to Russia's nuclear doctrine had been prepared and were about to be formalized, meaning the relevant documents setting out the circumstances in which nuclear arms can be used by Moscow will be updated. President Vladimir Putin warned the West on Wednesday that under proposed changes to the doctrine Russia could use nuclear arms if it was struck with conventional missiles and would consider any assault on it supported by a nuclear power to be a joint attack. In other words, Moscow will consider responding with nuclear weapons if the West allows Ukraine to strike inside Russia with long-range Western missiles... Peskov cited the international situation, escalating tensions near Russia's borders and the growing proximity of NATO infrastructure to them, and what

he called the deeper involvement of Western nuclear powers in the Ukraine war on Kyiv's side, as the backdrop for the changes to the doctrine.

U.S. special ops prepping for start of WWII with China

Financial Times, 9/13/24—Seal team 6, the clandestine US Navy commando that killed Osama Bin Laden in 2011, has been training for missions to help Taiwan if it is invaded by China, according to people familiar with the preparations. The elite Navy special forces team ... has been planning and training for a Taiwan conflict for more than a year at Dam Neck, its headquarters at Virginia Beach. The Secret training underlines ... (US) preparations for such an event. The preparations have grown since 2021, when Phil Davidson, the US Indo-Pacific commander at the time, warned that China could attack Taiwan within six years...As the threat from terror groups has receded, special operations forces have joined the rest of the US military and the intelligence community in intensifying their focus on China. CIA Director Bill Burns told the Financial Times last week that 20 percent of his budget was devoted to China, a 200 percent increase over three years. The Chinese embassy in Washington said that Taiwan was "the very core of China's core interests and the first red line that must not be crossed in the China-US relationship."

ARAB-JEWISH WORKERS UNITE AGAINST GENOCIDE



May Day demonstration in Ramle, near Tel Aviv, 1949. The Arabic banner on the right says: “We demand the release of the detained trade unionists and democrats. We demand the reuniting of victimised Arab families and the return of refugees. We demand the abolishing of military restrictions and racial discrimination.” The banner in the foreground, in Yiddish, says: “Work and bread for Ramle workforce.”

This October 7th marked a year since Israel turned its open-air prison in Gaza into mass graves, genociding tens of thousands of workers with weapons supplied by U.S. bosses. At a time when many workers in Israel have been won to extreme Jewish nationalism (zionism) and anti-Arab racism that has hardened into fascism, rightfully angry workers are turning to Arab nationalism as the only path to liberation. But Progressive Labor Party calls for workers on both sides of the fake “Israel-Palestine” divide to reject the bosses’ nationalism, which claims that workers in Palestine and Israel, have the same interests as their respective

elites. To see how fake the divide is between workers in Palestine and Israel, one need only look at the historical and present examples of solidarity and comradeship between Arab and Jewish workers in the region:

Living together

During the British Mandate (1920s to 1948), Arab and Jewish residents lived together despite nationalist pressure from their respective elites. The port city of Haifa was a major site of cohabitation. There were equal numbers of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim people, and immigrants from Europe and Syria who

settled there. Jobs where workers with different nationalities worked instilled class consciousness and promoted friendships, but the ruling classes built an apartheid system that prevented cooperation. The Zionist and Palestinian elites appealed to nationalist ideology and created the separate Jewish Histadrut and Arab labor federations, respectively.

Joint labor organizing and strikes

During the 1920s, Arab workers began organizing

Continued on page 7

WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is night of Friday, October 11

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

SUBSCRIBE or RENEW!

All the communist politics, news, and struggle from around the world!

one-year subscription: \$20 individual

\$45 for institution

Name

Address

City State Zip

Make check or money order to: Challenge Periodicals, PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

